

Meeting Minutes

Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) Biodiversity Advisory Group (BAG)

DATE / TIME

Tuesday 19 March 2024
Time: 1:30pm

LOCATION

Narrabri Shopfront Conference Room
125 Maitland Street, Narrabri
(+ Videoconference)

CHAIR

Garry West

MINUTE TAKER

Lyn Firth

ATTENDEES

- Isaac Mamott (Independent Expert)
- Trudy Staines (Community Member)
- Kathryn Hamilton (Community Member)
- Janelle Twyman (Santos)
- Adam Butcher (Santos)
- Steve Phillips (Independent Expert)
- Sam Wynn (NSW DCCEEW) (MS Teams)
- Todd Dunn (Santos)
- Chris Eastaugh (NSW Forestry) (MS Teams)

APOLOGIES

- Ken Flower (Community representative)

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
1. Welcome	The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and acknowledged Gomeroi country on which the meeting was held as well as Elders past, present and future and all Aboriginal persons present.

2. Declaration of interest	The Chair asked if there were any new declarations of interest. None declared.
3. Recording of minutes	The Chair asked members if there was any objection to the recording of the minutes for secretariat purposes with the audio being deleted once the minutes were finalised and approved. There was no objection.
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes from the previous meeting (November 2023) were accepted with no changes. The minutes have been uploaded to the Narrabri Gas Project (NGP) website.
5. Actions from Previous Meeting	All matters have been attended to. At the conclusion of the meeting the Independent Environmental Audit report will be circulated.
6. Correspondence	Nil correspondence received.
7. Santos Update	<p>Santos Corporate Update (Todd Dunn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion was held regarding the company half year and full year results – further details available via the company website https://www.santos.com/investors/company-reporting/ <p>Narrabri Gas Project Update (Janelle Twyman)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 activity continues to progress 5 shallow bores completed between February and October 2023 Santos will make a final investment decision once all the approvals are received supporting the development including the supporting pipelines. Micro-siting including ecological and cultural heritage scouting for Phase 2 ongoing for 2024. The Independent Environmental Audit was completed in November 2023 and is on the NGP website. The Annual Review is to be submitted to DPHI at the end of March and will be available on the NGP website. <p>Q. Isaac Mamott – Will there be any more pilot wells required as part of Phase 1?</p> <p>A. Todd Dunn – We think we will have enough information on the back of the core hole program to meet our water monitoring network requirements and reserves booking which underpins commercial decisions.</p> <p>Independent Environmental Audit (Janelle Twyman)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Independent Environmental Audit (IEA) was required within one year commencement and was completed in November 2023

- Its purpose was to assess Santos’ compliance against the conditions of the SSD.
- The IEA was undertaken by a team of 5 personnel all with more than 35 years of experience.
- The IEA covered the period from 30 September 2020 to 15 September 2023.
- The IEA included site inspections, interviews with project personnel and the review of Santos records, documents and data.
- There were 210 conditions across 9 permits audited
- The IEA found 131 compliant findings, 2 minor administrative non compliances, 77 not triggered findings and 89 observations.
- The two minor administrative non-compliance were:
 - All permits are required to be on the NGP website, the water access licenses weren’t. They have now been added;
 - The auditors didn’t consider that the waste management plan addressed all the requirements under the SSD. The waste management plan has been updated to provide more clarity.
- The documents were submitted to DPHI on 13 November 2023 and accepted by the DPHI on 30 January 2024.
- The report and Santos’s responses to the findings are available on the NGP website. The Chair will distribute the report to the advisory board members after the meeting.

Garry West explained that the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) has had a name change to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI).

National Native Title Tribunal (Todd Dunn)

- The original decision relating to the granting of Petroleum Production Lease Applications for the NGP was handed down in December 2022.
- This was appealed by the Gomeroi people, and the appeal was heard in August 2023.
- The decision by the Full Federal Court was handed down in March 2024 allowing the appeal against the granting of the Petroleum Production Lease to proceed.
- The Court has determined the National Native Title Tribunal erred in law by declining to consider evidence on climate impacts and the public interest that was put forward by the Gomeroi people.
- The Court did not make any adverse findings in relation to Santos’ conduct.

- Santos have at all times negotiated with the Gomeroi people in good faith.
- The Court's orders regarding next steps are yet to be made.

Q. Kathryn Hamilton – How will that affect the flow of operations?

A. Todd Dunn – Santos needs a favourable resolution for the production licenses to be granted. In terms of timelines, it may take up to 12 months for a decision to be made.

Q. Isaac Mamott– With the climate change issue, don't the consent conditions require Santos to reduce their emissions through carbon capture or is it voluntary?

A. Todd Dunn – There are conditions relating to minimising emissions in the consent and a quantity allowed within which Santos must operate. Santos are looking for ways to reduce emissions in line with our corporate objective of net zero.

Some years ago, there was an appeal against the project with regards to climate change that went to the Land and Environment Court which was dismissed.

Q. Kathryn Hamilton – At our last meeting you were talking about the reduction of carbon emissions. Has there been any progress on what you held then and now?

A. Todd Dunn– Santos are developing plans to meet net zero emissions.

In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, there are opportunities that we build into the base design. We are always trying to be more efficient in our operations. Other items require modifications to the approval such as solar power integration.

Q. Isaac Mamott - Is Santos concerned that if things are heating up that there will be more intense fires. Can you shut down the wells when there is a fire nearby?

A. Todd Dunn - We have a slide coming up on the recent bushfires. Santos has climate change resilience plans and emission reductions plans in place across our assets.

Q. Isaac Mamott - It has always been hot in the Pilliga and there have always been frequent fires, but do you think it is getting hotter?

A. Todd Dunn - You would have to look at the scientific evidence for that. There have been three good seasons of rainfall and this has meant a lot of undergrowth in the forest resulting in high fuel levels in the forest prior to the recent bushfires.

Q. Todd Dunn to Chris Eastaugh - Were you able to achieve the hazard reduction plans during the wet weather?

A. Chris Eastaugh - A few years ago, there was a substantial burn off in that area. State-wide we are a little behind, but we are not unhappy with how it has gone in the west.

Q. Isaac Mamott - Once you have constructed the well pads, do you envisage burning the adjoining areas of each well pad every few years to keep the fuel loads down?

A. Todd Dunn - We work with forestry in relation to management of forest compartments. Forestry has a plan, in that they work in compartments. They undertake back burning operations through the cooler months. Forestry wouldn't prioritise our area over others, but their plans would consider risks to private property and other defined priorities.

Phase 1 Activity and Management Plans (Janelle Twyman)

- Management plans continue to be revised and updated as required.
- Minor change to one of the locations of the well pads (Dewhurst 34) resulted in a reduction of our disturbance area, however this required changes to the management plans.
- DPHI has approved 8 of the 9 management plans submitted for approval.
- The department advised that there was no further consultation with government agencies or advisory groups required because it was a reduction in the disturbance area.
- The biodiversity management plan and biodiversity offset strategy are to be submitted.
- The revisions to the management plans have been predominantly administrative in nature.
- All the management plans and DPHI approvals of the management plans are available on the NGP website.
- Future management plans cover areas such as safety, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, property management, salt, visual amenity.

Todd Dunn added:

- Santos will be coming back to this group on the updated biodiversity management plan, biodiversity offset strategy and koala research proposal for Phase 2.
- The first Field Development Plan had the coreholes and pilot wells. The Phase 2 field development plan will be looking at the

next stage of development . The micro-siting process will be applied across the project as well as mitigation measures.

Koala Research Program – Phase 1 update (Steve Phillips)

- The Koala research program is:
 - Designed to determine the location and size of remnant Koala populations in the Pillage Forest;
 - Investigates why suitable areas of habitat may not be occupied by Koalas; and
 - Guides adaptive management of the Koala population in the project area and any land-based offset areas used to retire species credits for the Koala.
- The estimated population size is roughly 350 koalas in the area between Baradine and Kennebri.
- The program is currently groundtruthing the Areas of Regional Koala Significance (ARKS). The field work scheduled for February / March 2024 has been delayed because of the recent fires.
- Phase 2 involves further field surveys being undertaken on the basis of revised detection probability derived from the results of the ground truthing surveys.
- Phase 3 will involve the development of adaptive / assertive / proactive management guidelines.

Comments by members were:

- Universal dismay at the projected reduced numbers of koalas now living in the Pilliga Forest.

Hunter Gas Pipeline (HGP) update (Todd Dunn)

- The gas from the NGP is committed to the domestic market. The gas will be taken to the market via the HGP pipeline which was given Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) status by the NSW Government.
- The design is in accordance with the Australian Standard - Pipeline Gas and Liquid Petroleum (AS2885) requirements.
- Santos is expecting to commence Stage 2 construction in the second half of 2025 once the route is finalised and all secondary approvals are completed.
- One of the key benefits is the offtake points along the alignment which should be instrumental in future regional development.
- Feedback from surveys and landowners is being incorporated into the final design.

- The staging request was approved by DPHI and Stage1 commenced in Q4 2023.
- Santos are entering into agreements to build further construction sites along the route (laydown yards, machinery storage, workshops, offices, camp sites etc).
- Landowner and community engagement (along the route) continues. Over 180 sites have been surveyed to date.
- The Deed of Option Easement Agreement process is underway.

Narrabri Lateral Pipeline (NLP) update (Todd Dunn)

- This connects the approved NGP gas processing facility at Leewood to the HGP east of Baan Baa (about 55km). It also has CSSI status.
- Landowner and community engagement with survey activities where voluntary agreement has been reached
- The EPBC referral to the Commonwealth Government has been delayed due to the Pilliga bushfires – the impact of the fires needs to be reviewed – expected to be submitted Q2 2024.
- The NLP EIS is being prepared based on the SEARs and will be placed on public exhibition for submissions by the DPHI.

Q. Isaac Mamott - Was most of the 55km study area impacted by the fires?

A. Todd Dunn - Yes. The Project was basically in the middle of the affected area.

Q. Isaac Mamott - Was there a reason why this section wasn't included in the original HGP project way back?

A. Todd Dunn - The HGP was approved by another proponent in its own right and it was intended to take gas from Wallumbilla to Newcastle to tie in with the domestic market. Santos acquired that company with the approval in place rather than trying to get a new approval. However, this meant that there was 55km not included in the project.

Exploration & Other Activity (Janelle Twyman)

- PEL 1 – Kahlua pilot activity (workover of existing wells) – wells now online
- PEL1 – Scouting for future minimum tenure commitments.
- PEL 238/PAL2 – Operations workovers and monitoring bore completions.
- PEL 238 /PAL2 – Tintfield Pilot workovers & pond upgrade works

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brawboy 2 (PEL 456) P&A complete with rehabilitation to be progressed through 2024. <p>Q. Kathryn Hamilton - What is the water out of the ponds used for? Still for irrigation?</p> <p>A. Todd Dunn - We are not currently irrigating. Our water treatment plant runs at about 2 ML / day but doesn't operate efficiently at too much less than this. We are currently producing a small amount of water from the operational wells. This water is being stored in the Leewood ponds until the levels are at a point where it is efficient to operate the water treatment plant.</p> <p>Q. Trudy Staines - So are you able to use your own water for your earthworks?</p> <p>A. Todd Dunn - Before Narrabri, the intent was to use any water produced for dust suppression or other construction purposes, but it is not automatically part of the consent for the Narrabri Project. We would probably need a Resource Recovery Exemption or the like to do this. We are working through the framework provided.</p> <p>Santos in the Community (Janelle Twyman) During 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Santos has invested approximately \$10 million into the Narrabri/Gunnedah Shire regions. • Santos has hosted 20 community info sessions and partnered with over 50 community groups or organisations. • Santos personnel attended 54 events or initiatives • The Festival of Rugby employed 40 local contractors and injected approximately \$800,000 into the community. About 3500 people attended over the weekend. <p>Duck Creek Pilliga Bushfire (Todd Dunn)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 130,000 hectares of the Pilliga Forest was affected. • Santos has a comprehensive bushfire management plan approved by the former DPE and this was shown to be effective. • Santos made a proactive decision to shut down operations during the bushfire. • No impact on Santos operational infrastructure, but some auxiliary infrastructure was damaged such as signage and fences.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rehab sites were damaged. Before the fire, nearly all the sites had met the completion criteria and could have been handed back to forestry, but this is now unlikely to occur. Clean up is in progress. Santos were not allowed back into the forest until the end of February. In terms of preparation for fire season, we are required to have 360,000L on automatic refill at Bibblewindi and this was available to the RFS and Forestry. Similarly, there are four (4) 60,000L tanks available. Bibblewindi is a big, cleared space and was a suitable place to store equipment and provide protection for fire crews. <p>Q. Isaac Mamott - Concerning the pilot wells, there is a 100m by 100m cleared area around them. Is that based on bushfire risk and mitigation?</p> <p>A. Todd Dunn - The 100m by 100m is necessary for construction. We reduce the area to 25m by 25m once we have finished. We rehabilitate what was cleared as required.</p> <p>Q. Isaac Mamott - When are you expecting a final investment decision?</p> <p>A. Todd Dunn – We are expecting it in the second half of next year (2025) subject to the other approvals.</p>
8. Advisory Group Updates	Meeting of the advisory groups will take place over the next 2 days.
9. Member Updates	No member updates
10. General Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CCC met this morning – they meet quarterly. The other advisory groups meet on a needs basis, but it is required that there are two (2) meetings / year. <p>It is not possible to provide a date for the next meeting, but it is hoped to organise a field trip in conjunction with the next meeting.</p>

Actions

NO.	ACTIONS	ACTION BY	DUE DATE
1	Distribution of Independent Environmental Audit Report to members	Garry West as Chairperson of the BAG	After the meeting.

Next meeting

TBA

Meeting closed

2:55 pm

